

# Villainous Verses

## Humpty Dumpty - The Truth



We all know how the story goes;  
that funny old egg  
with his wiggly toes;  
the way he sat on a very high wall  
then came right down  
with a great big fall.  
You know he fell and smashed his shell;  
they fixed him up  
with super-strength gel,  
but did you know that's not where it ends?  
That Humpty's a cheat  
and betrayed his friends?  
To understand the real egg story,  
get yourself ready  
cos it gets a bit gory.  
For Humpty wasn't an egg at all:  
he was a big ol' metal cannonball!  
It starts way back in history;  
the exact date  
remains a mystery.  
Let's set the scene in the Civil War -  
the Roundheads wanted  
a king no more!  
They cornered a load of the enemy men,  
who scarpered and hid in  
a fortified den!  
The Cavaliers wanted to keep their king  
and were confident  
Humpty could do his thing.  
The biggest cannon; the biggest ball.  
Humpty sat  
on the castle wall.  
"I will blast them to kingdom come!"  
Humpty cried as  
they beat their drum.



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The Cavaliers shouted, the Cavaliers cheered,  
surely, they were the  
ones to be feared.  
But Humpty wasn't keen on the king -  
he didn't like  
his crown or bling.  
Humpty was a Roundhead at heart -  
he loved the way they  
dressed up smart.  
Fighting them was a bad idea  
so he waited till  
they crept up near.  
"Shoot 'em! Blast 'em!" his comrades screamed;  
"In a moment,"  
the cannonball beamed.  
Humpty had no thought of fighting -  
in fact, betraying them  
was quite exciting.  
"Quick! Fire Now!" his friends were crying,  
"Yes, in a moment,"  
he carried on lying.  
But Humpty wasn't a clever ball:  
as he sat there smiling  
on the wall  
from a simple Roundhead's point of view,  
smashing him was quite the coup!  
They shot their guns and bombs at Humpty  
(it was around now he  
felt a numpty).  
The wall around him began to crumble;  
Humpty took a  
fatal tumble.  
Down he fell and cracked his head;  
all around him  
his friends were dead.



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He had lied, he had betrayed;  
in lots of pieces  
now he laid.  
All the king's horses, all the king's men  
couldn't put Humpty  
together again.  
That's the truth! That selfish ball!  
A rotten egg  
falling off the wall.



# Questions

1. According to the first verse, what did Humpty do to his friends?

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2. What are the names of the two armies fighting each other?

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3. 'Fighting them was a bad idea'. Who is the poem talking about here, and why is fighting them a bad idea? Give two reasons for your answer.

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4. Match the numbers to these events in the poem, so that they are in time order. Number 1 is the first event that happened.

The Cavaliers cheered.	1
Humpty fell off the castle wall.	2
The Roundheads cornered the Cavaliers.	3
His friends were dead.	4
The king's men and horses tried to fix Humpty.	5
Humpty felt a numpty.	6

5. What made Humpty feel excited? Why do you think it made him feel this way?

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6. Why did Humpty fall off the castle wall?

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7. Which words best describe Humpty in the poem? Tick **four**.

- self-centered
- treacherous
- funny
- uncaring
- brave
- disloyal
- mysterious

8. Why did Humpty feel a 'numpty'?

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9. Predict what might have happened if Humpty hadn't betrayed his friends.

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